

Viborg-Hurley School District

Return to Learning Plan/Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

2023-24



<p><u>2020-21</u> Last Revised: August 5, 2020 First Board Reading: August 5, 2020 Second Board Reading: August 10, 2020 Board Adoption: August 10, 2020</p>	<p><u>2021-22</u> Last Revised: January 10, 2022 First Board Reading: July 12, 2021 Second Board Reading: August 9, 2021 Board Adoption: August 9, 2021</p>
<p><u>2022-23</u> Last Revised: June 13, 2022 First Board Reading: June 13, 2022 Second Board Reading: July 11, 2022 Board Adoption: July 11, 2022</p>	<p><u>2023-24</u> Last Revised: June 13, 2022 Board Reviewed: May 10, 2023 Board Reviewed: November 9, 2023</p>

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Message from the Superintendent

The Viborg-Hurley School District is committed to a safe and secure learning environment for all of its students and staff. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our District developed a leveled learning plan with protocols for the 20-21 school year infused with flexibility for our school community to help ensure a quality equational experience for all students.

At this time, our District's plan is to begin the 22-23 school year on Wednesday, August 24, 2022 with normal learning. The Viborg-Hurley School District's 2022-2023 Return to Learning Plan/Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan contains information regarding **Normal Learning**, **Temporary Remote Learning**, and **Virtual Learning**. To meet the requirements of the American Rescue Plan Act Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP ESSER), the Viborg-Hurley School District needs to re-evaluate our "Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan" every six months. As per the United States Department of Education's ARP ESSER requirements, our plan must include the following:

- Date of school board approval (pg. 1)
- Date of last review (pg. 1)
- Contact person for questions (pg. 13)
- Accessible to parents who speak a language other than English and individuals with disabilities (pg. 13, Website URL: <https://www.viborg-hurley.k12.sd.us/browse/229749>)
- Accessible (easily) on our website (pg. 13, Website URL: <https://www.viborg-hurley.k12.sd.us/browse/229749>)
- Plan components to address how the district will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff; and the extent to which the district has adopted policies, and a description of such policies, on each of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) safety recommendations including, at a minimum:
 - Universal and correct wearing of masks (pg. 10)
 - Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (may include cohorts) (pgs. 10-12)
 - Handwashing etiquette (pgs. 10-12)
 - Respiratory etiquette (pgs. 10-12)
 - Cleaning of facilities (pgs. 10-12),
 - Maintaining healthy facilities (may include improvements to ventilation) (pgs. 10-12)
 - Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to Health and safety policies (pgs. 8-12)
 - Contact tracing in collaboration with state, local, and (as applicable) tribal health officials (pgs. 5-6),
 - Quarantine policy for close contacts, whether identified in the school setting or outside of the school setting, in collaboration with state, local, and (as

- applicable) tribal health officials (pgs. 5-6)
- Isolation policy for positive COVID-19 cases, in collaboration with state, local, and (as applicable) tribal health officials (pgs. 5-6)
- Diagnostic and screening testing for COVID-19 (pg. 13)
- Efforts to provide vaccinations for eligible members of the school community (pg. 13)
- Coordination with state and local health officials (pg. 13).
- Plan to include how the district will ensure the continuity of services for in-person, remote, and/or hybrid students as applicable, including at a minimum:
 - Services to address students’ academic needs, including learning loss (pgs. 6-10, 13)
 - Students’ social, emotional, and mental health needs (pgs. 6-10, 13)
 - Staff members’ social, emotional, and mental health needs (pg. 13)
 - Foodservices (12), and Student health, if not addressed in the above (pgs. 11-12)

Within this document, you will find the factors associated with **Normal Learning**, **Temporary Remote Learning**, and **Virtual Learning**. The information within this document depicts how the Viborg-Hurley School District meets the items required by American Rescue Plan Act Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP ESSER). The health and safety of our students, staff, and families will continue to drive our decision-making during the 2022-23 school year. Thank you for your support and it is with your help that the 2022-23 school year will be a success.

Sincerely,

Brett Mellem, Superintendent
Viborg-Hurley School District

Viborg-Hurley School District Close Contact, Quarantine, & Isolation Practices

Close Contacts in School

The Viborg-Hurley School District will not identify close contacts at school. Close contact designations will need to be identified by the SD DOH.

Close Contacts Outside of School

Contact tracing for cases outside of school will continue to be handled by the SD DOH. Students and/or staff members determined to be close contacts outside of school will be subject to the 5-day quarantine. Individuals can be released from quarantine after 5 days if they remain asymptomatic (no symptoms). Individuals can return to school on wearing a mask through day 10 of quarantine.

Students and/or staff members who elect not to wear a facial covering/mask in school, on the school bus, and at school activities (participant/spectator) after 5 days in quarantine, will be required to stay home from school for the duration of the 10-day quarantine. To be released from quarantine after 10 days.

Close Contacts in Household

Students and/or staff members identified as a close contact to a known positive COVID-19 case in their own household will be required to stay home from school for the duration of the quarantine period of 10 days. Students and/or staff can return to school following day 5 of quarantine if they remain asymptomatic (no symptoms). Individuals can return to school on wearing a mask through day 10 of quarantine.

COVID-19 Positive Individuals -Isolation

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 will need to isolate as directed by the SD DOH. Individuals with COVID-19 should isolate for 5 days and if they are asymptomatic or their symptoms are resolving (without fever for 24 hours), they will be allowed to return to school followed by 5 days of wearing a mask.

Academics

The educational needs of each family in the Viborg-Hurley School District may be different. As a result, our District will offer two learning models—**On-Campus Learning** and **Virtual Learning**. Both models will offer instruction that is rigorous and mapped to South Dakota’s content standards. It is our hope to maximize on-campus learning and transition to **Temporary Remote Learning** may be necessary for a class, individual school, or entire district for a period of time. For families unable to have their children in the on-campus learning model, virtual learning options are available.

On-Campus Learning will keep instruction as normal as possible, including attendance, assessment, and grading practices.

Off-Campus Learning—in the event a grade, school building and/or entire district needs to close for a period of time due to a resurgence of COVID-19 and community spread, teachers will use best practices in instruction to deliver content to students in an online/**remote** format. Best practices for on-campus instruction will be reflected in off-campus instruction as well, including: attendance; students will need to engage daily with content, assignments, and teachers; routines and schedules; pacing and deadlines; communication with students and families; feedback; learning management systems; sound instructional practices; student engagement; and assessment of learning.

Viborg-Hurley School District Planned Models of Education Delivery

On-Campus Learning

Normal Learning—All students return for in-person delivery of instruction by Viborg-Hurley School District teachers. Students and teachers maintain a normal daily schedule.

Off-Campus Learning

Temporary Remote Learning—All instruction is provided off-campus remotely through technology and/or learning packets provided by the Viborg-Hurley School District teachers, due to a resurgence of COVID- 19.

Virtual Learning

Virtual Learning: If parents decide to not have their children return to on-campus, in-person instruction, options are available in which 100% of the instruction is provided online.

Research has shown that students who experience the highest level of success in online learning environments exhibit the following attributes: self-motivated, independent learner, computer literate, time management, effective writing skills, and personal commitment.

Elementary and middle school students whose parents choose virtual delivery for their children will receive instruction in core classes—English/Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. High School students will have access to courses that meet the South Dakota High School Graduation requirements.

Parents who select this option for their children must commit to one full semester (August 24, 2022 through December 22, 2022 and/or January 4, 2023 through May 19, 2023) of virtual learning. The Viborg-Hurley School District will not be providing the teacher(s) for the semester- long and/or year-long virtual learning instruction.

The deadline for parents to select the Virtual Learning option is Wednesday, August 8, 2022. If interested, please contact Superintendent/5-8 Principal Brett Mellem at Brett.Mellem@k2.sd.us or 605-238-5003, K-4/9-12 Principal Cory Jensen at Cory.Jensen@k12.sd.us or 605-766-5418. Each virtual learning request will be reviewed on an individual basis by the Viborg-Hurley Administrative Team.

Our District's two Virtual Learning providers are Edgenuity and the South Dakota Virtual School.

Edgenuity (9-12)

Edgenuity provides individualized learning in an engaging curriculum with research-based assessments for learning, and quality educational services designed for each student and any learning environment. The 9-12 program focuses on original credit, credit recovery, CTE courses, and college and career readiness courses. Edgenuity will provide the grades for the students.

<https://www.edgenuity.com/>

Black Hills Online Learning Community (K-8)

Black Hills Online Learning Community (BHOLC) is an online education program using an innovative educational model to provide children with the best education possible. The BHOLC program is administered by Technology and Innovations in Education (TIE), which is a subsidiary of the Black Hills Special Services Cooperative, in cooperation with participating public schools, including the Viborg-Hurley School District. Students in grades K-8 using the BHOLC platform will have a grade level online teacher who has contact with the learning coach (parent/guardian) throughout the school year.

<https://www.bholc.org/>

Instruction

All District school buildings and teachers at the K-4, 5-8, and 9-12 levels will have plans in place in the event a classroom, school building, or entire district would need to move into an alternate model of education delivery to support the teaching and learning of students—

Normal Learning and **Temporary Remote Learning**.

K-12 Guiding Principles

1. Plans will allow teachers, classrooms, school buildings, and district to move fluidly between all models.
2. Instruction will adhere to District curriculum and state standards.
3. Each level will have a consistent Learning Management System to deliver instruction.
 - a. K-2: See Saw
 - b. 3-12: Google Classroom
4. Student progress will be monitored, documented, and communicated to all families.
5. Relationships will continue to be developed with families to support all instructional models.

Professional Development

Professional development will be made available to teachers and/or educational aides. Professional development will focus on Learning (face-to-face and digital) and Technology Integration/Infrastructure.

Special Education

The Viborg-Hurley School District Special Education Department is committed to providing free and appropriate educational opportunities for students with disabilities to the greatest extent possible in accordance with the guidance from the US Department of Education, SD Department of Education, SD Department of Health, CDC guidelines, and state of South Dakota.

Collaboration with families will continue to be an integral part of the special education process. To address the individual needs of each student with disabilities, special education staff will continue to work with families to identify essential services that can be provided both directly and indirectly when on the school campus or when in a remote learning environment. Learning

environments will be selected by the district and/or state, and may fluctuate throughout the school year. Through collaboration with families, Individual Education Plans (IEP's) may be adjusted, as needed, for the circumstances of the learning environment based on students' needs and services. Staff will continue to work diligently in setting detailed plans for the delivery of special education services.

As each student has unique needs, the special education department will continue to create avenues for learning and sharing new approaches. The district will provide learning sessions, online resources, and platforms to help create positive and progressive learning environments.

Section 504

Students who qualify for Section 504 will continue to be evaluated and receive accommodations in all learning models. Section 504 case managers will review and collaborate with the 504 teams to determine and update accommodations as appropriate. The 504 teams will work collaboratively to identify alternative solutions if the accommodation(s) are not appropriate or successful through a particular learning model.

English Language Learners

Students will continue to be identified through the Home Language Survey and screened with WIDA according to State Guidelines. The ELL Coordinator will communicate with families and teachers to provide services whether learning is On-Campus/Off-Campus or Virtual Learning, as well as develop and meet the requirements of their Language Acquisition Plan (LAP). The district will continue to follow the guidelines provided by the State and/or ELL Consortium for all assessments and requirements of ELL services. Information in the home language will be essential in helping families navigate the school year.

General classroom teachers will collaborate with families, the student, and the ELL Coordinator and provide language support in their instruction and assessments following the Language Acquisition Plan (LAP) in all learning environments. Communication home should be provided in both the language and mode of preference of the family.

School Counseling

Our school counselor is committed to providing counseling opportunities for all students. The school counselor will provide counseling sessions, educational information, and resources to promote emotional health. Collaboration with students, families, teaching staff, and outside resources will continue to be an integral part of the counseling process. To address the individual needs of each student, the school counselor will continue to work with these resources to identify essential services that can be provided both directly and indirectly when on the school campus or when in a remote learning environment.

Activities

Our District will do its best to maintain school co-curricular programs, organizations, and activities that are so important to the physical, mental, and social well-being of our students. Interscholastic and co-curricular activity protocols and restrictions will be developed before the seasons commence for each activity. The District will rely heavily upon the guidance and recommendations coming from the South Dakota High School Activities Association, as they oversee all school athletic and fine arts programs.

Information will be made available to all stakeholders as protocols are developed and changed. These guidelines will be developed based on recommendations from the sanctioning bodies for each activity as well as Federal, State, and local recommendations and restrictions that exist. All protocols for these activities will be adjusted as the recommendations change.

Operations—Safety and Well-Being Considerations

The safety of our students and staff is a top priority. Upon reopening in August, our schools will have been cleaned and disinfected. The following are safety procedures that are in place for daily practices/building practices, facility and maintenance, health services, child nutrition services, technology and connectivity, and transportation.

Daily Practices/Building Practices

To assist us in promoting safety for all, please encourage the following practices:

- Parents/Guardians should monitor the health of their child(ren). Sick students should not be sent to school.
- Teach and encourage proper handwashing and covering of coughs and sneezes.
- Determine scheduled handwashing times for elementary students.
- Promote other healthy hygiene practices.
- A water bottle for personal use.
- Masks or face coverings may be worn if an individual student or staff member chooses to do so. Individuals who choose to wear a mask/facial covering should do so correctly as outlined by CDC guidelines.
- Encourage students to avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth.
- To the extent possible, limit student sharing of materials.
- To the extent possible, promote social distancing.
- To the extent possible, allow minimal mixing between groups.
- To the extent possible, space seating/desks as much as possible.
- To the extent possible, turn desks to face in the same direction (rather than facing each other) or have students sit on only one side of tables.

- Some staff may be required to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) due to the nature of their work.

Facility and Maintenance

- Full deep summer cleaning will have been completed—cleaning all furniture, fixtures, walls, extracting carpets, waxing floors, etc.
- Change air filters before the start of the school year (July/August) and then change again in the fall, winter, and spring.
- Operate HVAC systems during all scheduled student/staff activities to ensure air exchanges have occurred in occupied areas.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers installed in all classrooms, lunchrooms, and entries.
- Handwashing signage in all restrooms.
- EPA approved products will be used for all cleaning.
- All staff will be responsible for routinely wiping down frequently touched surfaces in their work area.
- Custodians will disinfect frequently touched surfaces on a consistent basis.

Health Services

- School Secretaries will screen students that become ill during the school day.
- School District will provide an isolated space for students that become ill until a parent can pick up their child.
 - If an isolated space is not available, a student will be provided a mask/facial covering.
- School District will follow SD DOH health exclusion guidelines.
- School District will continue to uphold SDCL regarding vaccination requirements.

Child Nutrition Services

- Touchless Point of Sale—lunch clerks will key all codes for students.
- Meals served by food service staff using sanitized hard trays.
- EPA approved products will be used for all cleaning and sanitizing.
- All food service staff continue with sanitation and safety training.
- After three consecutive days of school closure, the District will provide meals (breakfasts and lunches) for all students on a drive-through and explore route deliveries. These meals will be charged at regular rates.
- If a school closure is longer than three days, breakfasts and lunches for students will be distributed in two or three-day quantities.
- District will review allowable to-go options for breakfasts and lunches if schools are in the “**Temporary Remote Learning**” model.
 - In the event of an extended school closure, the District will provide meals (breakfasts and lunches) for all students on a drive-through basis at the Viborg and Hurley locations and will be distributed in two or three-day quantities.

Technology and Connectivity

- Principals will identify families in need of reliable WiFi/internet connectivity for their children in the event that the “**Temporary Remote Learning**” model would need to be utilized.
- District will work with local internet providers to bridge the connectivity gap for students/families.
- District will utilize the school network and Deledao to manage and provide content filtering on all K-12 devices.
- Grades K-1 are 1:1 with iPads.
- Grades 2-10 are 1:1 with Chromebooks.
- Grades 11-12 are 1:1 with Laptops.

Transportation

- Hand sanitizer will be available on the bus for student and staff use. Students are encouraged to use hand sanitizer as they enter and exit the bus.
- Bus drivers will be trained on proper cleaning procedures.
- Disinfectant spray/wipes will be available on each bus for the driver to wipe railings, etc.
- Keep bus windows partially opened when possible.
- Assigned seating and one per seat when possible.
- Movement in a school bus is restricted – please do not switch seats.
- Siblings from the same family may sit together.

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan **2021-2022 Additions**

Diagnostic and Screening Testing for COVID-19

During the 2021-2022 school year, the Viborg-Hurley School District will opt-out of both asymptomatic screening testing offered by the SD DOH and symptomatic on-site Rapid testing (e.g., BinaxNow by Abbott) offered by the SD DOH. Individuals who need a COVID-19 test will need to contact their primary care provider for additional information.

Vaccination Efforts to Eligible Members of School Community

During the 2020-2021 school year, Pioneer Memorial Hospital and Lewis Drug offered COVID-19 vaccines to Viborg-Hurley School District staff members.

State and Local Health Official -Coordination Efforts

The Viborg-Hurley School District will in good faith work with local and state health officials when managing COVID-19 cases.

Continuity of Services

Learning Loss

The Viborg-Hurley School District will track learning progression via state, local, classroom, and NWEA assessments. Learners who need additional support and services may be eligible for tutoring services, summer school learning opportunities, and additional tiered classroom interventions. Provided services would take place during the school year and/or during supervised summer sessions.

Student Needs -Social, Emotional, and Mental Health

The Viborg-Hurley School District will continue to meet student social, emotional, and mental health needs through the following avenues: (a) district-provided counseling services, (b) character development programming appropriate to each grade-level, (c) district-coordinated counseling services, and (d) relationship building between students and staff.

Staff Needs -Social, Emotional, and Mental Health

The Viborg-Hurley School District will address staff social, emotional, and mental health needs through the following avenues: (a) encourage the use of accrued personal days, (b) professional development activities/sessions focused on mindfulness, well-being, and gratefulness, (c) district-coordinated counseling services, and (d) by maintaining a work environment conducive to communication and collaboration amongst all individuals.

Accessibility

The Viborg-Hurley School District will post English and Spanish versions of this document online. Individuals with issues accessing information due to language or disability should contact Brett Mellem via email (Brett.Mellem@k12.sd.us) or phone (1-605-238-5003).

Plan location: <https://www.viborg-hurley.k12.sd.us/browse/229749>

Resources

Human Resources

It is the Viborg-Hurley School District's desire to maintain its workforce and fully utilize the skills of its staff members during **Normal Learning** and **Temporary Remote Learning**.

Stakeholders and Communications

The Viborg-Hurley School District, Elementary School, Middle School, and High School will keep all stakeholders informed through email, district messaging systems, our website, and our social media platform—live feed, and Facebook. All stakeholders must be committed to sending and receiving information from one another.

Parents/guardians must communicate with schools regarding any changes to phone numbers, email addresses, emergency contacts, etc. District and schools must communicate in a timely manner about the model(s) of education delivery, procedures, and protocols that are specific to each building. A successful Return to Learning Plan will require the support and full investment of all stakeholders.

Mr. Brett Mellem

Superintendent / 5-8 Principal
(605)238-5003
Brett.Mellem@k12.sd.us

Mr. Cory Jensen

High School / Colony Principal
(605)766-5418
Cory.Jensen@k12.sd.us

Mrs. Tara Jensen

Elementary Principal/SPED Director
(605)766-5418
Tara.Jensen@k12.sd.us

Mr. Galen Schoenefeld

Athletic Director / Network Administrator
(605)766-5418
Galen.Schoenefeld@k12.sd.us

Mr. Matt Jensen

Business Manager
(605)766-5418
Matt.Jensen@k12.sd.us

****The Viborg-Hurley Return to Learning Plan can be changed/alterd at any time by the Superintendent if the situation surrounding the altering deems necessary to protect the safety of students, safety of staff, or the efficient delivery of education.****